WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a clustered computing environment comprising a plurality of nodes, a method for enabling a distributed network application that requires centralized administration via a defined master node to execute on the nodes of the cluster, said method comprising:

receiving an administrative request from the clustered computing environment at an originating node thereof;

determining whether the originating node is a designated master node for the distributed network application; and

routing the administrative request from the originating node to the designated master node if the originating node is not the designated master node.

2. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said routing step comprises:

creating an instance of a named pipe that provides a connection between the originating node and the master node; and

passing the administrative request from the originating node to the master node via the named pipe.

3. The method recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of sending a reply to the administrative request from the master node back to the originating node via the named pipe.

4. The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the administrative request at the master node via the named pipe; and

calling an administrative application programming interface (API) of the distributed network application to initiate processing of the request by the designated master node.

5. A server program embodied on a computer-readable medium for use in a clustered computing environment comprising a plurality of nodes, the server program comprising program code for enabling a distributed network application that requires

centralized administration via a defined master node to execute on the nodes of the cluster, the program code of said server program, when executed on each node of the cluster, causing any of said nodes to perform the following steps:

receiving an administrative request from the clustered computing environment at that

5   node, that node defining an originating node;

determining whether the originating node is a designated master node for the distributed network application; and

routing the administrative request from the originating node to the designated master node if the originating node is not the designated master node.

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6.   The server program recited in claim 5 wherein the program code causes the node to perform said routing step by creating an instance of a named pipe that provides a connection between the originating node and the master node, and passing the administrative request from the originating node to the master node via the named pipe.

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7.   The server program recited in claim 6, wherein the program code further causes the master node to send a reply to the administrative request from the master node back to the originating node via the named pipe.

20   8.   In a clustered computing environment comprising a plurality of nodes over which a distributed network application executes, wherein the distributed network application requires centralized administration via a designated master node, the improvement comprising a server program executing on each node that intercepts administrative requests from the clustered computing environment at that node, and that routes the administrative

25   requests from the originating node to the designated master node if the originating node is not the designated master node.

9.   The clustered computing environment recited in claim 8, wherein the server program determines whether the originating node is the designated master node for the

30   distributed network application before routing said administrative requests.

10.   The clustered computing environment recited in claim 9, wherein the server program routes the administrative requests to the designated master by creating an instance of a named pipe that provides a connection between the originating node and the master node, and then passing the administrative request from the originating node to the master node via

5   the named pipe.

11.   The clustered computing environment recited in claim 8, wherein the server program further sends a reply to the administrative request from the master node back to the originating node via the named pipe.

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